AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] In the present invention, the inboard 10 and outboard 12 stages of a tandem seal are constructed as totally separate modules, each containing [[the]] components [[of]] corresponding to one of the sealing stages of the known tandem seal shown in Figure 1. In order to avoid unnecessary repetition, like components have been allocated like reference numerals as previously described in Figure 1, and will not be described a second time. Components ~~which~~ that serve the same function, but have been modified, have also been allocated the same reference numerals, but a prime has been added to show that the component has been changed.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] In the prior art tandem seal of Figure 1, spacer sleeve 50 is used to hold the mating ring 16 to the annular flange 44 of the inboard stage 10. On the other hand, in the tandem gas seal assembly of the present invention shown in Figure 2, no spacer sleeve is used to hold the mating ring 16 to the annular flange 44' of the support sleeve 40' of the inboard stage 10. In the tandem gas seal assembly of the present invention, the mating ring 16 of the inboard stage 10 is held to the annular flange 44' of the inboard stage 10 by a locking sleeve 60' at the inboard stage 10.

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] The above modifications result in a total separation of the two sealing stages and each can now function totally independently of the other. In other words, they do not

need to be placed next to one another for them both to function normally. It is preferred to mount them next to each other and each sealing stage is fastened to its respective rotating support sleeve 40' with a separate fastener 75 oriented in substantially one direction, as illustrated. ~~because they~~Further each sealing stage can then be retained using a single locknut 42 on the rotor 30, as previously described.

No new matter has been added and this amendment to the paragraph describes the structure of FIG. 2 as originally filed.